



**Statement by Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress**

**Before the Subcommittee on the
Legislative Branch Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Fiscal 2019 Budget Request**

May 8, 2018

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Murphy and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Library's fiscal 2019 budget.

The Library of Congress remains the world's largest library, a premiere research institution, a destination for scholars and, of course, Members of Congress and congressional staff. It also holds enormous potential for reaching so many more Americans of all walks of life who can find information and inspiration from this remarkable national resource. This will be a major focus of my tenure.

Over the past year we have made significant strides in increasing access to the library and improving the user experience. For example, the U.S. Copyright Office published a new archive of copyright cases; the Congressional Research Service is currently beta testing online webinars, and added instant messaging and teleconferencing services; the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped launched a public education campaign to raise awareness of the services they offer; the Law Library put fully indexed and searchable historic versions of the U.S. Codes online; and new primary source collections now online include the papers of Alexander Hamilton, Ulysses Grant, Benjamin Franklin, and Susan B. Anthony, as well as new high-resolution scans of the original documents in the Abraham Lincoln papers.

As I've visited libraries and communities in many Congressional districts this past year, I have been energized by the interest, enthusiasm, and the expressed need for greater connection to the resources and services of Congress's library.

Realizing the Library's potential to reach out across the country requires that we first take care of fundamentals. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your support in the 2017 and 2018 funding bills for mission-critical work. The initiatives funded in these bills, along with the 2019 request, methodically build to our goals of modernization for greater access and customer service to the Congress and nation.

Special thanks to you for your support for the initiative to revitalize and enhance the visitor experience in the Thomas Jefferson Building through a public/private partnership. I am also deeply appreciative of your support for the Library's collection storage modules program at Ft. Meade as part of the Architect of the Capitol's budget.

I am happy to report that, as a result of the support from this committee in crucial areas of IT modernization, Copyright Office staff and storage programs:

- the Library has closed or is awaiting GAO confirmation on 24 of 31 public recommendations for improving IT efficiencies;
- the Copyright Office has reduced its registration backlog by nearly 25 percent in the past year;
- and we are actively filling the interim storage facility at Cabin Branch as well as the recently completed Module 5 at Ft. Meade.

In addition, I have taken managerial steps during the past year to create efficiencies in our operations and management.

- I appointed Mark Sweeney as Acting Deputy Librarian of Congress.
- All IT organizations and personnel were centralized into the Office of the Chief Information Officer, and
- We completed the first phase of the Envisioning 2025 initiative, for a five-year strategic plan.

The Library's direction forward, as defined in this planning process, will be more "user-centered," with the Congress remaining as the Library's foremost user.

As a result of this planning, I announced this month a realignment of internal units to prepare the Library for this user-centered future.

I am confident that these combined steps have established a robust management structure that is prepared to hit the ground running when the new strategic plan is completed later this summer.

For fiscal 2019, our budget request builds on the past two years and concentrates on IT modernization, targeted workforce skills, and increased access. Details of this request are provided in my written testimony, and highlights include:

- Ongoing investment in Copyright IT modernization as we move to the development of the Next-Generation Registration System and a modern recordation system, which is currently paper-based.
- Investment in our workforce for CRS analysts, economists and attorneys to meet demand; full restoration of the Copyright examiner workforce; and foreign legal and language expertise for the Law Library.
- And finally, workforce investment in Library Services which will increase access by speeding up processing of a significant backlog in special collections such as the Teddy Roosevelt and Caspar Weinberger papers, which are yet to be processed.

To reiterate, IT modernization and a strong workforce are critical areas of investment to help the Library achieve its potential as a national resource, with superior service to all of our customers.

Chairman Daines, Ranking Member Murphy and Members of the Subcommittee, the Library is the embodiment of the American ideal of a knowledge-based democracy. I thank you again for your support.

I am happy to take your questions.